

IS ROGER SULLIVAN JOINING HANDS WITH MAYOR THOMPSON IN BACKING JAKE LOEB?

The most exciting question in Chicago politics today is whether Mayor Thompson, at tonight's council meeting, will re-appoint Jake Loeb to be president of the school board. On all sides it is admitted Big Bill is taking his political life in his hands and making the most reckless plunge of his career if he names the present school dictator to run things another term in office.

What mixes up the situation is a few simple facts like these: Loeb is a Democrat. The mayor is Republican. By naming Loeb the mayor will supply one more argument for the passage of a state law abolishing party lines and names from ballots in city elections.

Roger Sullivan's influence is being used in behalf of Jake Loeb. Sullivan and Jake Loeb are hand-in-hand on the big main issues in Chicago, and the Sullivan support which will be needed to confirm Jake Loeb tonight would be the most conclusive showing-up of three different political interests in their stand on the religious issue.

Labor never will forget the record of Big Bill's action if he names Jake Loeb tonight. Labor regards it as a life-and-death battle. A letter was sent yesterday to every alderman voting today. It was signed by Pres. John Fitzpatrick and Sec'y Ed Nockels of the Chicago Federation of Labor and reads:

"Dear Alderman: We are informed that a fight is to be made on organized labor at the first meeting of the new council on Monday, April 23, by an attempt to secure the confirmation of the name of Jacob M. Loeb as member of the board of education and ten others.

"The plan is to place Mr. Loeb's name with these others before the new council prior to adoption of the rule and ask for immediate confirma-

tion. By this trick they avoid having to suspend the rules, which requires a two-thirds vote.

"Jacob Loeb, the day after the supreme court upheld the Loeb anti-union rule, made this statement in the Chicago Tribune:

"This is the happiest day of my life. Such a decision is worth making a long fight for. There will be no labor unions in the public schools."

"Today union carpenters, foundrymen, electricians, plumbers, printers and others carrying union cards are teaching the boys in the Lane and Crane public trade and technical schools. Under the Loeb rule not one of these men can lawfully teach. If the appointment of Jacob Loeb is confirmed by the city council it will mean the council will approve the driving of every union man and woman out of all employment connected with the public schools. This is what the Manufacturers' ass'n wants.

"Dudley Taylor, representing the Employers' ass'n, has already addressed the mayor, protesting against city employees being organized and against recognition of labor unions in any way whatsoever.

"This is a fight to the death between organized labor and big business and its allies, such as the Illinois Manufacturers' ass'n and the Employers' ass'n, operating under the name of the Chicago Public School league. Big Business is struggling to crush democracy from our school system. Labor wants courageous citizens trained in our schools, so that the poor boy has really an equal chance with the rich boy.

"The rules of the council provide for the appointments to be deferred one week. On June 30, 1916, page 220 of the proceedings, the council ordered the committee on schools to ask certain questions of candidates for school board members before voting on concurrence in the mayor's